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ABSTRACT

The American higher education system is explained to those whose understanding of it is limited, especially non-American readers. The book attempts to picture the entire higher education system in the United States including limitations and deficiencies as well as balanced treatment of different types of colleges and universities. Despite its diversified structure of authority and control and sources of financial support, American higher education can be considered a system in the sense that its various components share many things in common and are linked in many ways. Eight sections focus on the following: (1) history and development (land grant colleges, normal schools and teacher's colleges, the role of the church); (2) organization and governance (colleges, universities, and institutes, governing boards, and internal structure); (3) administration and finance (administrative officers, support staff, source of finance); (4) degrees and curricula (bogus degrees, honorary degrees, the curriculum); (5) faculty (academic rank, tenure, faculty support); (6) teaching (teaching methods, class meetings, grades and grading); (7) students (pre-collegiate education, enrollment, profiles of students); and (8) research and public service (research, university press). Contains 18 references. (SM)

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